Ministry of Education

Plan for 2015-16

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Government of Saskatchewan

Statement from the Minister

The Honourable
Don Morgan, Q.C.

Minister of Education

I am pleased to present my Ministry's Plan for 2015-16. Government's Direction and Budget for 2015-16 is focused on *Keeping Saskatchewan Strong,* balancing building for the future with fiscal responsibility. In this plan we identify how the Ministry of Education aligns with this direction and supports the *Saskatchewan Plan for Growth.*

Our diverse and resilient economy requires a well-educated and highly skilled workforce, and high school completion is one of the foundations for further education, training and employment opportunities.

Through a Student First approach, the education sector has been working to meet the targets identified in the *Saskatchewan Plan for Growth.* By asking ourselves in everything we do, "What difference does it make for the student?" and "How can we work together to achieve this?", the *Education Sector Strategic Plan* 2015-2020 continues to bring coherence and alignment to the priorities of the Government, the Ministry, the sector and the classroom, to make a difference where it matters most – for the student.

The Ministry will report on the progress made toward the Plan for 2015-16, within the financial parameters provided, in the Ministry's Annual Report.

Government of Saskatchewan

Response to Government Direction

The Government of Saskatchewan is committed to *Keeping Saskatchewan Strong*. The province faces challenges due to volatile resource revenue; however, Saskatchewan's economy is diverse and resilient. There are strengths in many sectors from agriculture and manufacturing to resources such as potash and uranium.

With controlled spending and continued support for the conditions necessary for economic growth, the Government will meet the needs of our growing province. Investments in people and infrastructure continue to support Government's commitment to establishing Saskatchewan as the best place to live, to work, to start a business, to get an education, to raise a family and to build a life.

Saskatchewan's Vision

"... to be the best place in Canada – to live, to work, to start a business, to get an education, to raise a family and to build a life."

Sustaining growth and opportunities for Saskatchewan people	Meeting the challenges of growth	Securing a better quality of life for all Saskatchewan people	Delivering responsive and responsible government

Government's vision and four goals provide the framework for ministries, agencies and third parties to align their programs and services and meet the needs of Saskatchewan's citizens.

All ministries and agencies will report on progress in their 2015-16 annual reports.

Operational Plan

Mandate Statement

The Ministry provides leadership and direction to the early learning and child care, Kindergarten through Grade 12 education, literacy and library sectors. The Ministry supports the sectors through funding, governance, and accountability, with a focus on improving student achievement. The Ministry is committed to improving the learning success and well-being of all Saskatchewan children and youth, and the enhancement of literacy for all Saskatchewan people. The Ministry also supports and promotes government-wide projects including the implementation of the Lean initiative.

Mission Statement

The Ministry of Education provides strategic, innovative, and collaborative leadership to the early years, Prekindergarten through Grade 12 education, literacy and library sectors. It promotes higher student achievement and well-being for Saskatchewan children and youth and improved literacy skills for all, as a foundation of the Province's social and economic growth.

Education Sector Planning

During the 2013-14 year, directors of Saskatchewan school divisions, representatives from First Nations and Métis education authorities and senior leaders from the Ministry of Education came together as a Provincial Leadership Team. This team developed a plan to guide actions for 2014-2020. The *Education Sector Strategic Plan* (ESSP) is the first ever province-wide plan to be developed in co-operation with education sector partners, approved by the 28 school boards and accepted by the Government of Saskatchewan. It provides a unified approach to education in order to meet the needs of all students, and to improve education outcomes as identified in the *Saskatchewan Plan for Growth*.

The sector plan is informed by a Student First approach that puts the student front and centre to ensure that all students in Saskatchewan, in every corner of the province, have the education and skills to succeed when they graduate from high school.

The library and literacy sectors play a key role in contributing to the development of Saskatchewan residents' literacy skills, as well as supporting lifelong learning and student success. Moving forward, the sector planning process will widen to include public libraries and literacy organizations, capitalizing on province-wide co-operation which has put Saskatchewan learners at the forefront.

The Provincial Leadership Team will continue the work of planning and deployment of actions in 2015-16. The 2014-2020 plan has been reviewed and refreshed, resulting in a Plan for 2015-2020. Some long-term goals, improvement targets and strategies that were identified in the 2014-15 plan have been updated, and short term priorities for 2015-16 have been identified.

The ESSP identifies key goals, which are the focus of sector action for the Prekindergarten to Grade12 education sector. The Ministry's Plan for 2015-16 is focused on addressing the challenges in achieving each of these goals and moving forward to meet targets that will achieve the bold outcomes in the ESSP.

Government Goals

Sustaining growth and opportunities for Saskatchewan people	Meeting the challenges of growth	Securing a better quality of life for all Saskatchewan people	Delivering responsive and responsible government

Strategic priority from the *Saskatchewan Plan for Growth*: The Government of Saskatchewan will invest in the infrastructure needed to support education, and quality of life priorities. Similarly, school boards must ensure their infrastructure planning aligns with the growth needs and priorities of the communities they serve.

Ministry and Education Sector Goal

By September 2017, nine new joint-use schools in Saskatoon, Regina, Warman and Martensville will be complete and ready for use. Each school will include a child care centre with space for 90 students (810 child care spaces in total), and space for community use.

Key Actions

- Invest $154.1 million in school capital funding to continue work on the Joint-Use Schools Project.
- Work with SaskBuilds to develop a long-term capital strategy.

Performance Measure

Joint-Use Schools Project Progress

In March of 2016, construction of the nine joint-use schools will be underway and on target for completion in the summer of 2017.

Government Goals

Sustaining growth and opportunities for Saskatchewan people	Meeting the challenges of growth	Securing a better quality of life for all Saskatchewan people	Delivering responsive and responsible government

Ministry and Education Sector Goal

By June 30, 2020, children aged 0-6 years will be supported in their development to ensure that 90% of students exiting Kindergarten are ready for learning in the primary grades.

Strategy

By June 2018, 90% of educators in Prekindergarten and Kindergarten will have participated in early childhood education professional learning opportunities.

Key Actions

- Develop and distribute resource materials to school divisions to facilitate discussion on how to appropriately address results of Early Years Evaluation (EYE). Provide aggregate results of the EYE data to Community Based Organizations. The EYE is a screening tool that is a leading indicator of a child's development. EYE results help to guide schools in planning and practice for meeting the learning needs of whole classes, small groups and individual children at a critical point in the early years. Early identification of children's learning strengths and challenges is crucial not only to support young children's current development but to lay the foundation for future school success and will therefore be used to monitor progress towards meeting the target for 2020.
- Identify and enhance ministry, school division and inter-agency supports, practices and resources that improve child outcomes and increase schools' readiness for children.
- Develop a provincial continuum of developmentally appropriate supports for children ages 3-6.
- Complete an environmental scan of current data streams that may be available from across the human services sectors.

Performance Measure

Early Years Evaluation

In June of 2015, the percentage of students exiting Kindergarten ready for learning in the primary grades, as indicated by the EYE, will be identified and a target for the 2015-16 school year will be determined.

Government Goals

Sustaining growth and opportunities for Saskatchewan people	Meeting the challenges of growth	Securing a better quality of life for all Saskatchewan people	Delivering responsive and responsible government

Strategic priority from the *Saskatchewan Plan for Growth* and the *Education Sector Strategic Plan*: Expand Prekindergarten programs with an emphasis on improved support for vulnerable children in addition to increasing early learning and child care spaces in Saskatchewan.

Ministry Strategy

Government will continue to collaborate with early years and education stakeholders to improve early learning.

Key Actions

- Release *Essential Learning Experiences* to provide more detailed guidance to programs on children's learning and development.
- Increase communication and collaboration with personnel in First Nations early learning programs.

Government Goals

Sustaining growth and opportunities for Saskatchewan people	Meeting the challenges of growth	Securing a better quality of life for all Saskatchewan people	Delivering responsive and responsible government

Strategic priority from the *Saskatchewan Plan for Growth* and the *Education Sector Strategic Plan*: Work to increase the number of Grade 3 students reading at grade level by 20% by 2015.

Ministry and Education Sector Goal

By June 30, 2020, 80% of students will be at grade level or above in reading, writing and math.

Strategies

By June 2018, at least 80% of Grade 3 students will be at or above grade level in reading.

By June 2018, at least 80% of grades 4 -12 students will be at or above grade level in reading and writing.

By June 2020, at least 80% of students will be at or above grade level in math.

Key Actions

- Develop resources to assist administration in the implementation and deployment of *Saskatchewan Reads*. *Saskatchewan Reads* is a sector reading strategy of best practices for grades 1-3.
- 100% of school divisions/systems will design and deploy a literacy program based on *Saskatchewan Reads*.

Performance Measure

% of Grade 3 Students Reading at Grade Level

By June 2015, the percentage of Grade 3 students who will be reading at or above grade level will continue to increase in order to meet the provincial target of 80% by 2018.

Government Goals

Sustaining growth and opportunities for Saskatchewan people	Meeting the challenges of growth	Securing a better quality of life for all Saskatchewan people	Delivering responsive and responsible government

Strategic priority from the *Saskatchewan Plan for Growth* and the *Education Sector Strategic Plan*: Reduce the Grade 12 graduation disparity between First Nations and Métis and Non-First Nations and Métis students in the Prekindergarten to Grade 12 system by 50 per cent by 2020.

Ministry and Education Sector Goal

By June 30, 2020, collaboration between First Nations and Métis and Non-First Nations and Métis partners will result in significant improvement in First Nations and Métis student engagement and will increase three-year graduation rates (students graduating within three years of entering Grade 10) from 35% in June 2012 to at least 65%.

Strategies

Achieve an annual increase of 4 percentage points in the First Nations and Métis three-year graduation rate.

By 2018, school divisions will achieve parity between First Nations and Métis and Non-First Nations and Métis respondents on the "Tell Them From Me" engagement measure of positive relationships at school.

Key Actions

- Implement, monitor and support the "Following their Voices" professional development initiative in up to 10 schools. "Following their Voices" is a collaborative initiative designed to help teachers build better relationships with students that will enhance First Nations and Métis student engagement and achievement.
- Sector partners begin to develop or adopt a targeted professional development module for school based administrators that has a focus on the needs of First Nations and Métis students.
- Develop a provincial guideline that outlines the content and process for an efficient information exchange for students transitioning between and among education systems.
- Enhance existing First Nations and Métis Library Services by working with Frontier College to establish four First Nations literacy camps in the province.

Performance Measure

First Nation and Métis 3-Year Graduation Rate

By June 2015, the percentage of First Nations and Métis students who will have graduated within three years of entering Grade 10 will continue to grow in order to meet the target of 65% by 2020.

Government Goals

Sustaining growth and opportunities for Saskatchewan people	Meeting the challenges of growth	Securing a better quality of life for all Saskatchewan people	Delivering responsive and responsible government

Strategic priority from the *Saskatchewan Plan for Growth* and the *Education Sector Strategic Plan*: Ensure Saskatchewan leads the country in graduation rates.

Ministry and Education Sector Goal

By June 30, 2020, Saskatchewan will achieve an 85% three-year graduation rate (students graduating within three years of entering Grade 10).

Strategies

Achieve an annual increase of 3 percentage points in the provincial three-year graduation rate (students graduating within three years of entering Grade 10).

By June 2018, 77% of students will report high levels of intellectual engagement and sense of belonging as measured by "Tell Them From Me".

Key Actions

- Complete a review of provincial high school graduation requirements.
- Students entering Grade 9 will be supported to develop and maintain individual graduation and post graduation plans using SaskCareers.ca.

Performance Measure

Provincial 3 Year Graduation Rate

By June 2015, the percentage of students within the province who will graduate within three years of entering Grade 10 will continue to grow in order to meet the 85% target by 2020.

Government Goals

Sustaining growth and opportunities for Saskatchewan people	Meeting the challenges of growth	Securing a better quality of life for all Saskatchewan people	Delivering responsive and responsible government

Strategic priority from the *Saskatchewan Plan for Growth* and the *Education Sector Strategic Plan*: Ask school boards to demonstrate financial efficiencies that can be directed towards supporting front-line services.

Ministry and Education Sector Goal

By August 31, 2020, implement a sector-wide approach to find efficiencies and increase value add in order for the sector to be responsive to the challenges of student needs.

Strategy

By August 31, 2017, accumulated savings will be achieved.

Key Actions

- In collaboration with the sector:
  - Develop a long-term approach to finding efficiencies.
  - Develop measures and methods to identify savings.
  - Assist in the development of efficiency expertise throughout the sector.
  - Embed continuous improvement practices within school divisions.
  - Complete an efficiency project on transportation.
  - Develop business cases for identified quick win efficiencies and longer term projects.

Performance Measure

Provincial Summary of Accumulated Savings

Ministry, in partnership with the sector, will report out on any accumulated savings.

Government Goals

Sustaining growth and opportunities for Saskatchewan people	Meeting the challenges of growth	Securing a better quality of life for all Saskatchewan people	Delivering responsive and responsible government

Ministry Key Actions

- Continue to work with school divisions to address recommendations in Volume 2 of the Provincial Auditor's 2012 Report regarding transporting students safely.
- Continue to implement recommendations from the *Action Plan to Address Bullying and Cyber-Bullying.*

Government Goals

Sustaining growth and opportunities for Saskatchewan people	Meeting the challenges of growth	Securing a better quality of life for all Saskatchewan people	Delivering responsive and responsible government

Ministry Key Actions

- As part of the Collective Agreement, a Task Force will review teacher time.
- The new, independent Saskatchewan Professional Teachers' Regulatory Body will begin operating in the fall of 2015.
- Continue with the development and begin the deployment of Workforce Diversity Initiatives/Strategies:
  - First Nation and Métis Recruitment and Retention, and
  - Persons with Disability Recruitment and Retention.
- Support government-wide Lean, citizen-centred and enterprise initiatives.

Highlights

The following are key announcements from the Ministry of Education's 2015-16 Budget:

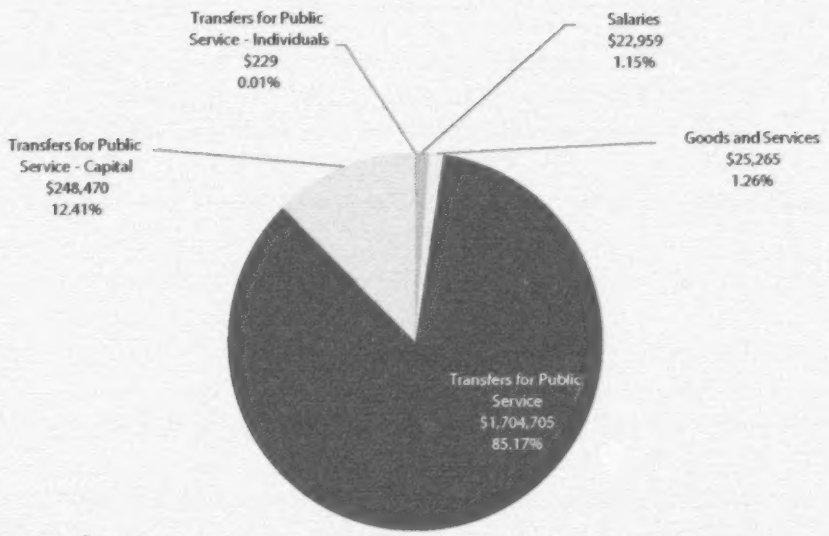
- Overall Education funding has increased by $246.5M, or 14.0 per cent, from 2014-15 for a total of $2B;
- School operating funding for 2015-16, including revenue collected from the education property tax, will be $1.87B, up $52.8M or 2.9 per cent over 2014-15;
- $154.1M increase for initial construction costs associated with building nine joint-use schools in Warman, Martensville, Saskatoon and Regina;
- $91.0M (which includes the Ministry assuming responsibility for funding 100 per cent of capital projects after March 31, 2015 in traditional school capital) including:
  - $31.6 million – a $7.6 million increase – in funding for preventative and emergency maintenance;
  - $10.6 million – a $3.7 million increase – for the purchase of up to 31 new relocatable classrooms across the province; and
  - $47.8 million – a $3.6 million increase – for 11 previously approved major capital projects.
- $5.1M ongoing funding in the response to Joint Task Force for the following initiatives:
  - $2.4M for the Invitational Shared Services Initiative;
  - $1.6M for Following Their Voices (First Nations and Métis Student Achievement Initiative);
  - $1.0M for Help Me Tell My Story and Help Me Talk About Math; and
  - $125K for Microsoft Software Licensing;
- $4.6M for Supports for Learning funding for school divisions to continue funding announced in the fall of 2014;
- $700K increase to cover costs of transitioning to the Saskatchewan Professional Teachers' Regulatory Body;
- $646K or an equivalent of a one per cent increase in funding for community-based organizations;
- $420K in funding for English as an Additional Language supports to deliver on commitments made to school divisions in the 2014-15 school year;
- $75K in additional funding to develop Braille and alternate format materials for students with disabilities;
- $2.1M increase for ongoing costs for existing, recently developed child care spaces; and
- $546K increase to support full-year Prekindergarten costs for recently implemented programs.

Financial Summary

2015-16 Estimates	(in thousands of dollars)
Central Management and Services	19,606
K-12 Education	1,520,452
Early Years	66,180
Literacy	2,769
Provincial Library	12,744
Appropriation	**1,621,751**
Non-Appropriated Expense Adjustment	1,850
Expenses	**1,623,601**
Teachers' Pension and Benefits	379,877
Total Expense	**2,003,478**
Total Appropriation	**2,001,628**
FTE Staff Complement	**298.5**

For more information, see the Budget Estimates at: http://www.saskatchewan.ca/budget

Ministry Spending by Category ($000s)



For More Information

Please visit the Ministry's website at http://www.saskatchewan.ca/government/government-structure/ministries/education for more information on the Ministry's programs and services.

Government of Saskatchewan